



Section Six

CRIME IN THE CITIES

CRIME IN THE CITIES

This section deals with serious crimes reported in the large urban cities of the state. These cities represent 19 percent of the population and historically account for one third of the reported Crime Index of the state.

This analysis involves the latest ten-year period 1995-2004 and endeavors further to identify crime trends in these urban areas.

The cities included in this analysis were initially categorized as urban municipalities (i.e., densely populated with extensive development) by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of State and Regional Planning, Bureau of Statewide Planning, and will continue to be used for comparative purposes.

The criteria used in the selection of these cities were (1) classified as urban character and (2) have a population of 50,000 or more inhabitants.

For further comparative analysis, the urban cities were subdivided into two distinct groupings.

Group number one consisted of the state's six largest urban centers with populations of 80,000 or over and is categorized as "Major Urban."

The second group included the "Major Urban" and the additional urban communities with populations of 50,000 or more inhabitants, and is referred to as the "Urban 15."

"MAJOR URBAN"

- Camden City
- Elizabeth City
- Jersey City
- Newark City
- Paterson City
- Trenton City

"URBAN 15"

- Bayonne City
- Camden City
- Clifton City
- Dover Twp.
- East Orange City
- Elizabeth City
- Irvington Town
- Jersey City
- Newark City
- Passaic City
- Paterson City
- Trenton City
- Union City
- Vineland City
- Woodbridge Twp.

The accompanying table reflects percent changes in the state's "Major Urban" and "Urban 15" municipalities Crime Index for the years 1995/2004.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1995/2004

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1995	7,903,994	896,668	1,510,302
	2004	8,638,396	956,464	1,612,959
	Percent Change	9	7	7
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1995	373,706	96,637	135,070
	2004	242,444	53,010	79,837
	Percent Change	-35	-45	-41
Violent Crime	1995	47,577	22,427	28,920
	2004	30,917	11,038	15,916
	Percent Change	-35	-51	-45
Nonviolent Crime	1995	326,129	74,210	106,150
	2004	211,527	41,972	63,921
	Percent Change	-35	-43	-40
Murder	1995	408	233	272
	2004	392	196	261
	Percent Change	-4	-16	-4
Rape	1995	1,924	573	797
	2004	1,328	295	408
	Percent Change	-31	-49	-49
Robbery	1995	22,474	11,721	15,283
	2004	13,071	5,350	7,648
	Percent Change	-42	-54	-50
Aggravated Assault	1995	22,771	9,900	12,568
	2004	16,126	5,197	7,599
	Percent Change	-29	-48	-40
Burglary	1995	69,547	20,019	27,611
	2004	41,032	8,656	13,591
	Percent Change	-41	-57	-51
Larceny-Theft	1995	206,421	33,918	52,276
	2004	140,181	20,806	33,468
	Percent Change	-32	-39	-36
Motor Vehicle Theft	1995	50,161	20,273	26,263
	2004	30,314	12,510	16,862
	Percent Change	-40	-38	-36

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1995/2004, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 35 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 41 percent and the six "Major Urban" cities decreased 45 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 35 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 45 percent and the six major cities decreased 51 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 35 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 40 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 43 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1995-2004

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,915,533	681,050	992,458
Percent Distribution		23.4	34.0
Violent Crime	358,899	145,419	199,519
Percent Distribution		40.5	55.6
Nonviolent Crime	2,556,634	535,631	792,939
Percent Distribution		21.0	31.0
Murder	3,452	1,744	2,208
Percent Distribution		50.5	64.0
Rape	15,249	4,245	5,962
Percent Distribution		27.8	39.1
Robbery	155,757	71,262	96,626
Percent Distribution		45.8	62.0
Aggravated Assault	184,441	68,168	94,723
Percent Distribution		37.0	51.4
Burglary	514,421	125,410	184,709
Percent Distribution		24.4	35.9
Larceny-Theft	1,661,274	262,988	408,534
Percent Distribution		15.8	24.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	380,939	147,233	199,696
Percent Distribution		38.7	52.4

Distribution:

- Six major urban centers—Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Paterson and Elizabeth—collectively represent 11 percent of New Jersey's total population. These same urban centers, during the period 1995 through 2004 accounted for 23 percent of the state's total crime.
- "Major Urban" centers from 1995 through 2004 accounted for 41 percent of all violent crime and 21 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 19 percent of the state's total population.
- "Urban 15" municipalities accounted for 34 percent of New Jersey's total Crime Index. Violent crime was 56 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 31 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-two percent of all reported robberies occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during this ten-year period.

STREET CRIME

There has never been a clear-cut definition for street crime within the criminal justice system. The nation's clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of criminal statistics, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has no criteria in the categorization of specific crimes to be designated or defined as "street crimes." More and more this media term has been confused with the violent crime group of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Although any particular crime can and does occur on the street, this analysis, because of reporting constraints within the Uniform Crime Reporting System, is limited to defining street crimes as those offenses which occur, or are most likely to occur, on streets, highways, parking lots, etc.. These crimes include highway robbery, purse-snatching, theft from autos, theft of auto parts and accessories, theft of bicycles, and motor vehicle thefts. All are crimes against property and only one, highway robbery, falls in the violent crime group.

- During the ten-year period 1995-2004, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 41 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Three out of every four highway robberies occurred in the "Urban 15" during the ten-year period.
- More than half of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Thirty-four percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2004, Highway Robbery and Motor Vehicle Theft were at their lowest levels.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1995-2004.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	12,380	9,647	8,280	7,093	6,669	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	74,864	73.2
Purse Snatching	1,116	826	658	600	486	499	536	586	530	418	6,255	33.8
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	14,381	12,977	12,387	12,107	11,295	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	115,209	31.0
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	7,818	6,831	6,114	4,777	3,871	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	51,673	40.8
Larceny of Bicycles	2,164	1,805	1,928	1,768	1,677	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	15,603	11.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	26,263	23,398	20,499	17,212	18,469	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	199,636	52.4
TOTAL	64,122	55,484	49,866	43,557	42,467	41,331	43,741	42,534	41,759	38,379	463,240	40.9
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	41.4	39.6	39.2	38.5	40.0	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	40.9	-

"URBAN FIFTEEN" PROFILES

Municipality	Year	Population	Crime Index	Violent Crime	Non-Violent Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Police Officers	Total Police Employees
Camden City	2003	79,685	7,223	1,928	5,295	41	56	857	974	1,459	2,686	1,150	435	520
	2004	80,089	7,156	1,829	5,327	49	57	823	900	1,162	2,807	1,358	428	511
Newark City	2003	277,000	17,521	2,848	14,673	83	90	1,369	1,306	2,297	6,308	6,068	1,335	1,562
	2004	277,911	17,035	2,984	14,051	86	81	1,410	1,407	2,195	5,997	5,859	1,282	1,518
Jersey City	2003	240,100	11,915	2,930	8,985	24	59	1,440	1,407	2,198	4,695	2,092	806	948
	2004	239,097	11,251	2,942	8,309	23	71	1,440	1,408	2,052	4,527	1,730	813	972
Trenton City	2003	85,650	6,355	1,523	4,832	13	36	646	828	1,081	2,654	1,097	374	430
	2004	85,314	5,324	1,364	3,960	18	47	577	722	992	2,173	795	356	405
Paterson City	2003	150,750	6,433	1,241	5,192	20	35	674	512	1,466	2,442	1,284	376	465
	2004	150,782	5,871	1,219	4,652	10	25	626	558	1,291	2,237	1,124	399	489
Elizabeth City	2003	123,279	6,614	760	5,854	14	14	525	207	1,119	3,068	1,667	339	456
	2004	123,215	6,373	700	5,673	10	14	474	202	964	3,065	1,644	341	457
Vineland City	2003	56,340	3,457	417	3,040	4	16	169	228	747	2,127	166	139	160
	2004	57,057	3,371	449	2,922	1	10	178	260	621	2,123	178	149	173
East Orange City	2003	69,750	6,184	1,402	4,782	22	30	651	699	1,061	1,951	1,770	287	332
	2004	69,212	5,369	1,121	4,248	17	32	567	505	1,121	1,867	1,260	270	317
Irvington Town	2003	60,516	5,127	1,499	3,628	27	40	769	663	898	1,280	1,450	181	212
	2004	60,057	4,811	1,440	3,371	26	31	758	625	910	1,228	1,233	185	216
Bayonne City	2003	61,605	1,297	244	1,053	1	8	93	142	212	674	167	233	271
	2004	60,905	1,029	183	846	3	5	89	86	163	561	122	230	266
Union City	2003	66,902	2,119	329	1,790	6	13	176	134	453	893	444	179	219
	2004	66,573	1,936	323	1,613	4	4	208	107	409	858	346	176	220
Woodbridge Twp.	2003	100,421	3,668	356	3,312	4	18	75	259	644	2,293	375	197	242
	2004	100,866	3,223	324	2,899	4	10	59	251	506	2,116	277	192	238
Dover Twp.	2003	92,890	2,222	149	2,073	1	12	38	98	330	1,660	83	151	198
	2004	93,671	2,011	122	1,889	3	8	30	81	350	1,458	81	153	208
Clifton City	2003	79,626	2,309	198	2,111	-	11	84	103	330	1,386	395	155	186
	2004	79,823	2,379	233	2,146	2	6	135	90	433	1,398	315	156	183
Passaic City	2003	68,445	2,859	770	2,089	4	2	355	409	324	1,190	575	179	217
	2004	68,528	2,698	683	2,015	5	7	274	397	422	1,053	540	164	198
"URBAN 15"	2003	1,612,959	85,303	16,594	68,709	264	440	7,921	7,969	14,619	35,307	18,783	5,366	6,418
TOTALS	2004	1,613,100	79,837	15,916	63,921	261	408	7,648	7,599	13,591	33,468	16,862	5,294	6,371